

Committee for the Relief of the French Refugee Clergy and Laity.

THE COMMITTEE are extremely concerned to be under the necessity of again soliciting the liberality and humanity of individuals; for some further aid to the unhappy objects of their care; but they trust, the new and extraordinary circumstances that have arisen will justify them in such an appeal. These unhappy persons, to the number of between six and seven thousand, having been maintained, during 15 months, by the voluntary contribution of individuals,—an act which must ever redound to the national honour!—have since received a monthly allowance from Government;—but who have not thought themselves justified, from the emergency of the times, in increasing the allowance in proportion to the increase of numbers in distress, and which increase is chiefly owing to the following causes: viz.

I. The total evacuation of Holland and Flanders in the winter of 1794, has added a considerable number of Ecclesiastics and Nuns to those who had already taken refuge in this country:

II. Many of the French Clergy, who in the years 1793 and 1794, maintained themselves with the little they were able to bring over with them from France, have been for some time in the extremest want; and yet they are not less objects of compassion, for having refrained as long as possible from soliciting relief.

These two descriptions of persons must have perished altogether, if the Committee had not with-held, since April last, the small pittance, (small among so many), that would otherwise have been laid out in clothing, and other extra expences, hardly less indispensable than food,—to the aged, to the diseased and to women in labour. The consequences of this have been, a total want of the article of clothing; that, both Laity and Clergy have been reduced to the necessity of pawning and of selling what effects they had left, and the beds from under them; that sickness, old age, and even the interesting period of child-birth, have been left without any means of relief and comfort.

It is a fact, known to the Bishop of St. Pol de Leon, that, at this time, there are more than 80 lying-in women, who shortly expect to be brought to bed, without the means of procuring medical assistance or even the necessaries of life, for themselves or their infants. Most of them lye upon straw, in unfurnished houses, without food or fire, and almost without clothes, having parted with their all, but mere covering, to purchase bread. Many instances have occurred, in which, unfortunate women in this situation have died in a manner too melancholy to relate.—Such too, we are sorry to add, has been the fate of some Ecclesiastics.

In the midst of these calamities, the Committee received an address, in the name of the Bishops and the whole body of the French Refugee Clergy, in which, after stating, with much humility and gratitude, their own distressed situation, and the kindness of the nation, they request “that such deductions may be made from their allowance as the Committee may judge necessary for the relief of all without exception, willing to add to their own misery, if they can thereby preserve their brethren from the last extremity; and happy, at the close of all their sufferings, to sacrifice even their lives, if it should be necessary, according to the lesson and example of their Divine Master, to brotherly love and christian charity.”—A Copy of this Letter is added.

The Committee have, through necessity, been obliged to accept of this offer; and in consequence of it have, though with reluctance, deducted a considerable portion from the small pittance allowed each Ecclesiastic.

With regard to the French Emigrant Laity, it must be observed that the relief allotted to them is distributed only, (except a small part which was expressly granted to the Magistrates and to persons of a similar rank) amongst women and children, the aged, the sick,

sick, and the wounded in battle, and who are without other means of support. All other persons in want, are expected to enlist and to serve in some of the emigrant corps; but the unfortunate events of war have increased the number of widows and orphans, who were before in part, if not altogether, supported by their lost husbands and parents.

Under these accumulated difficulties, the Committee cannot flatter themselves, they shall be able to provide for the many extra expences attending so many different classes of persons,—as medicine, attendance on the sick, succour to the aged, and some provision for the women under the distress of childbirth, without some additional aid from the beneficence of individuals; The Committee trust the present will be thought an occasion that calls for it, without interfering with the Charities that are bestowed on the poor and unfortunate of our own country.

The Committee cannot close this address without adverting to a circumstance which cannot fail of recommending the objects of it to the generous compassion of the affluent and humane, viz. the meritorious exertions which have been made by them to procure their own livelihood, (and in which many have succeeded, who would otherwise have been a burden upon this Committee); and the conscientious and spontaneous returns which many of them have made of the earnings of their industry, to the amount of above £. 500, which, though not a great sum in itself, is sufficient to shew the principles of justice, gratitude and charity which continue to actuate these innocent and unfortunate victims.

JOHN WILMOT, CHAIRMAN.

J. J. Angerstein,
Geo. Baker,
Tho. Bernard,
J. H. Browne,
Cha. Butler,
G. Gregory,
R. B. Jenkinson,
Ph. Metcalfe.

Wm. Pepperell,
W. W. Pepys,
W. M. Pitt,
W. Scott,
Brook Watson,
W. Wilberforce,
John Wills, D. D.

It is proposed that whatever is obtained in consequence of this address, shall be applied by the Committee for such urgent and extraordinary occasions as may occur.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are received at the following Bankers:

Messrs. Gosling and Co. Fleet Street.
Messrs. Hankey and Co. Fenchurch Street.
Messrs. Hammerley and Co. Pall Mall.
Messrs. Wright and Co. Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.



A MESSIEURS

Les Commissaires du Comité Anglais.

L'Eveque de Léon chargé de faire connoître les sentimens et les dispositions du Clergé Français a MM. les Commissaires du Comité Anglais,

A l'honneur de vous exposer ;

Que depuis que toutes les choses necessaires a la vie ont doublé de prix, le secours accordé aux Ecclesiastiques ne suffit plus que pour les mettre seulement a l'abri de mourir de faim. Il ne suffit pas pour les exempter de ressentir les atteintes d'une veritable misère. Ils la supportent avec patience, et le sentiment penible que produit la privation de leurs vrais besoins n'affoiblit pas celui de leur reconnoissance pour les secours qu'ils reçoivent. Leur modicité les oblige a se reduire a une subsistence si mince que leurs forces s'épuisent, ~~leur~~ leur temperament s'altère, leurs infirmités se multiplient. Mais ils oublient tous leurs maux en apprenant qu'un grand nombre de leurs Confreres et de Religieuses Anglaises seront privés de tout secours, attendu que leur inscription sur la liste est postérieure au mois de Novembre 1794, époque de la dernière augmentation accordée par le Gouvernement, qui a déclaré ne pouvoir plus ajouter de nouveaux fonds a ceux déjà accordés.

Ils ne peuvent, sans être émus de la plus vive compassion, voir tant de personnes respectables émigrées pour la même cause qu'eux, condamnées a périr de besoin, sans qu'il y ait d'autre reproche a leur faire, que d'avoir été moins à charge a l'Angleterre, en y arrivant plus tard.

Quelque grande que soit sa détresse, le Clergé demande a l'augmenter encore en faveur de ceux qui sont plus malheureux. Ils consentent a se consumer moins lentement par un surcroît de misère, pour que leurs Confreres ne soient pas exposés a en éprouver les derniers excès.

L'Eveque de Léon, au nom des Eveques ses Confreres et de tout le Clergé, vous prie de faire sur les secours qu'ils reçoivent le retranchement que vous jugerez necessaire, pour qu'ils puissent s'étendre a tous sans exception. Les Ecclesiastiques résidens au Chateau Royal de Winchester, animés des mêmes sentimens, se sont imposés différentes privations économiques pour la même fin ; trop heureux, a la suite de tous leurs sacrifices, de faire celui de leur vie même, s'il le falloit, a la charité fraternelle.

C'est la leçon qu'ils ont reçu de leur divin Maître :

Exemplum dedi vobis, ut, quemadmodum ego feci vobis, ita et vos faciatis.

A MESSIEURS

Les Commissaires du Comité d'Anglais

Le Comité d'Anglais a l'honneur de vous adresser ci-joint le rapport de son Comité d'Anglais

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ADDRESSES
FROM THE
COMMITTEE
FOR THE
RELIEF of the FRENCH REFUGEE
CLERGY AND LAITY.
8 March, 1796

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